

Editor's Remarks

In reviewing all of the papers included in this issue of the *CJPE*, I am struck by the fact that all of them, in their own way, focus on people, organizations, and groups. This is not surprising, given that our work as evaluators requires constant contact and communication with stakeholders, clients, managers, and beneficiaries. This link to others is often what defines our practice and sets us apart from other disciplines. To start us off, Carman and Fredericks co-author a paper on social network analysis, an approach that is gaining traction in our field. They not only provide a description of how, when, and under what conditions social network analysis can be applied in an evaluation context, but they also summarize useful, practice-based examples to illustrate its potential and its challenges.

I am also pleased to introduce a thematic segment that I co-edited with Marthe Hurteau on stakeholder involvement in evaluation, following a colloquium on this topic held in 2016. As evaluators, we are constantly learning how to best involve stakeholders in our work, and the four papers included in this thematic segment provide new insights from research and practice.

The practice notes section contains excellent presentations of evaluation innovations and approaches. The first practice note, authored by Shapiro and Oystreck, argues for the use of spreadsheets as data collection analysis systems in non-profit organizations. The authors propose a three-step framework for the development of such a system, focused on feasibility and sustainability. Next, Ramirez, Broadhead, and Quarry address readiness in evaluation and how it supports evaluation use, capacity building, and organizational learning. Finally, Mignone and his co-authors provide an account of the Summer Institute in Program Evaluation, an initiative undertaken by the University of Manitoba and community partners to build evaluation capacity through a week-long integrated training program. The authors present lessons learned along the way that will be of interest to those involved in teaching evaluation.

This issue also includes three book reviews, which are always of great interest to our readers. The book reviews cover evaluation basics, health program evaluation, and international development. Thanks to the reviewers for reading and commenting on these books for us.

As you read through this issue, think about how each paper contributes to a broader discussion of the role of stakeholders, clients, and program beneficiaries in evaluation and how we can best involve them, measure the linkages that exist between them, and build their own evaluation capacity. I hope that these papers will provide you with new ideas that can be applied to your evaluation research or practice.

Isabelle Bourgeois
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